

Reflections on Chapter Five

Before we move on to Chapter Six, I wanted to ask your thoughts on...

- In marriage that was not ordained by Christ and one party becomes a believer should their goal be to remain with the unsaved spouse?
- You have a happy marriage but your spouse is not born again, should you be content?
- Your spouse is okay with your Christ relationship but does not want you attending church - what should your response be?
- Your spouse is okay with you being born-again but does not want you to pay tithes and offerings to the church - what is your response?
- What other issues might a married couple have who are not in unity with Christ?

Ephesians Chapter 6

Rhema Bible Study

May19, 2021

Summary Chapter Six

The final chapter begins with what might called an exhortation to **"walk in familial harmony."** Children are told to obey their parents, while fathers are instructed not to provoke their children to wrath but bring them up in the Lord's nurture and admonition. As many households in the first century A. D. contained servants, commands are also given on the duties of servants and their masters (1-9).

The last major section of this epistle is a call to **"walk in victory"**, with a charge to stand strong in the power of the Lord's might. To be able to withstand the wiles of the devil and spiritual hosts of wickedness in heavenly places, Christians needs to adorn themselves with the whole armor of God. This armor includes such elements as truth, righteousness, the gospel, faith, salvation, and the Word of God. Standing strong also requires fervent and watchful prayer, not just for one's self, but for all Christians. Even Paul solicits their prayers that he might be bold as an ambassador in chains as he makes known the mystery of the gospel (10-20).

A brief explanation is then given concerning Tychicus, who is to let

them know how Paul is doing. for peace to the brethren, love with faith, and grace for all who love the Lord Jesus Christ in all sincerity (21-24).

Verse 1

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.

The home does not stop with the husband and wife relationship, but is expanded to include children. The first commandment given to Adam and Eve after God made them in His image was “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it” (Genesis 1:28). In Genesis 4:1, the Bible says, “Adam knew his Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain.” Consequently, rules for the home must include both parents and children. As he did in the husband and wife relationship, Paul first addresses the one who is commanded to be in subjection. In this case, it is the child. This obedience is to be done “in the Lord,” and when children respond in the Lord, all is well. Elsewhere, Paul wrote, “Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is well pleasing to the Lord” (Colossians 3:20), that is, obeying parents in all things as the Lord has indicated children should (i.e., “in the Lord”) is pleasing to Him. It is most unlikely that Paul meant that children were to judge whether or not the things their parents commanded were in harmony with the Lord's will. Most children would not be capable of deciding such things. Simply stated: The duty of the child is to obey. Of course, just as in the case of the wife, the child could refuse to do anything commanded that was contrary to God's will. There is no higher authority than Christ, and all rightful authority ultimately derives from Him. No one has the moral authority to command someone to circumvent God's laws.

Parents are mediators of God’s values and worldview to their children. This is why the child is to obey his or her parents. Obedience is the fundamental role of the child.

God does not sponsor liberation of the child from parents. Children cannot choose to do whatever they may want to do. Children are vulnerable to cultural trends. Parents should have the ability to discern these trends and help their children understand why they are wrong in God’s eyes.

Children are to submit to their parents, but parents are to meet the needs of their children. Without this relationship, society will experience disorder. Our relationship to the Lord is the motivation behind family and social order.

Disobedience to parents is a characteristic of the last days ([2 Ti 3:1-2](#)).

Some Christian psychologists say that parents should always explain to their children why they want them to do something. "Don't just tell your children to do something

but explain to them why." That may be an appropriate at times but the bible never says that parents must do that; in fact just the opposite. Children obey your parents; why? Because it's right; because God says so.

God doesn't always explain to us why things are the way they are and people don't do their children a favor by teaching them that they always deserve an explanation. They will have a hard time with God later on in life if that's their attitude.

Questions...is it okay for the Father to give the Mother discipline authority over their children?

Would Jesus agree with a child emancipating themselves from their parents?

What should a Christian's response be to current trends in childrearing such as no spanking?

Should you have family meetings to discuss major issues/changes in the family?

Verse 2

"Honor your father and mother," which is the first commandment with promise.

In this verse, Paul is appealing to the Fifth Commandment (Exodus 20:12), but it is actually the first commandment with a specific promise attached to it. And what is the specific promise? Look at the next verse.

If a child respects his parents, there is likelihood that he will respect other people as well. Respect for others is foundational for sound relationships in society. To honor means to respect the parents' authority. It's important for children to learn to respect the authority of their parents because their parents represent God and their authority is a reflection of God's authority. If children don't respect their parents then they do not respect and they will not respect God.

Verse 3

That it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth."

This promise was twofold: (1) *That it may be well with you.* Generally speaking, any child that obeys his parents will be spared many troubles and mistakes. He will also be spared much chastisement as well. The law of Moses actually permitted the stoning of a rebellious child (Deuteronomy 21:18-21). This should impress us with

the fact that God considers incorrigibility a terrible thing. (2) *That you may live long on the earth.* This originally referred to the privilege of dwelling in the land of Canaan (cf. Deuteronomy 5:33; 6:2; 11:8, 9; 28:36). Of course, this promise has a fulfillment in the present times. The child who obeys his parents will probably have better health, safer habits, wiser ways, and certainly the blessing of God to lengthen and enrich his life. Just think of all the children who have dissipated their lives because they have refused to obey their parents.

The disobedient child in the Old Testament was expected to have a very short life. It is in the best interests of the child to obey his parents because most children who accept discipline from their parents live longer.

Today's evangelicals have departed to a great extent from the biblical model of training children. They depend on the latest trends in psychology, to the detriment of the spiritual wellbeing of the child. A child needs direction, standards, and biblical viewpoint on life. Part of this understanding is the evil tendency of the human nature and that it is not essentially good. Christian parents have abandoned corporal punishment for fear of injuring the psyche of the child.

Failure to obey will result in unpleasant consequences; at least it should. It should not go well with children who do not obey their parents because that sends the wrong signal. Letting children get away with rebellion teaches them that they can rebel against God and not suffer.

Children who are disciplined in love have a big advantage over those who are not disciplined at all and over those who are disciplined but not in a loving way.

Questions...what are some of the causes of disobedient children?

What are some consequences for disobedient children?

How should you deal with disobedient children?

STOP - DO NOT GO TO NEXT PAGE UNTIL INSTRUCTED!

Causes of Disobedient children

1. Refusals and disagreements

If you do not allow your child to do anything and say 'no' most of the time, it discourages them and may turn them rebellious. Constant disagreements and refusals would only drive them away from you, making them disobedient.

2. Undefined boundaries

You might be setting boundaries for your children, but never explain the purpose behind them. Give reasons while you set healthy boundaries for your children. For instance, if you allow them to eat junk food only once a week, let them know the disadvantages of unhealthy food instead of only saying 'you cannot have it.'

3. Constant labeling

Children who are often labeled with a tag take it into their stride. Suppose you label them as 'arrogant,' they might take it as their trait and start behaving the same. If a child is labeled as 'best,' they might think they can never go wrong. But when they are not at their best, it may impact their ego and lead to irrational behavior. Praising or scolding your child should not come with a label.

4. Family environment

Constant quarrels within the family could leave an ill impact on the growing years of a child. Is there too much yelling in your house? Do the elders respect each other? A negative environment gets etched on the adolescent minds, and eventually, they may turn disobedient.

Consequences Of Disobedience

Disobedience should be addressed at an early stage. Unchecked disobedient behavior may cause the child to develop the following personality traits.

1. Arrogance

Disobedience often culminates into arrogance. You all sit together for dinner, but your child wants to have something different. If you don't provide them, they may resort to anger.

2. Lying

When children do not want to listen, they will find several excuses to escape from the situation. In the bargain, they may start lying to fulfill their demands. Suppose a child wants a new set of color boxes, despite owning one. You refuse to buy, and they resort to lying.

3. Disrespectful

You tell your child not to drop water on the floor and find them giving you a defiant expression. If you have overlooked their disobedient behavior once or twice, they may turn a deaf ear and disrespect your warnings eventually.

4. Stubbornness

Excessive [punishment](#) often causes disobedience, which ultimately leads to [stubbornness](#). Sometimes inflicting too much pressure also makes them aggressive and disobedient. If you scold children frequently, it makes them prone to throwing tantrums and become stubborn.

5. Hurtful

It is a common trait with the little ones. If they are hurt, they could become rough and do not play nice with siblings or friends. They may resort to pinching or biting in annoyance if they don't get what they want.

How To Deal With Disobedient Children?

Showing explosive anger on children is not the right solution. It might aggravate the issue, and the child might respond more disrespectfully. Here are a few ways to deal with disobedient children in a more appropriate manner [\(1\)](#).

1. Use your authority and give an explanation

Your child's misbehavior should not lead you to a war with them. Let them know the dos and don'ts of your disciplinary actions. Be flexible with those actions, and there is nothing wrong with being strict. You can be friends with your children but draw a line when it comes to discipline. If you don't want them to do anything, let them know the reason. For instance, you are not allowing your child to ride a bike without a helmet, tell them because it could lead to injury.

2. Let them be accountable

If your child is repeatedly making the same mistake, it's time for a warning. If the child is perpetually bullying their sibling every day, tell them they won't be allowed to watch their favorite cartoon show for a week. Maintain your actions strictly so that they don't take them for granted.

3. Keep consistent control over them

Do not allow bad behavior or [tantrums](#), just because it's holiday time and you want to let things be. If you don't control it, they might consider it your weakness. It also becomes their habit to manipulate you. So, keep control over their wrong behavior at every stage.

4. Be calm but firm

Don't lose your cool with your child. You have to act like a parent, not their sibling. Anger at all times may make the child rebellious. But at the same time, be authoritative. Authority should not be confused with anger. For example, if you want your child to arrange their toys in the cupboard, a polite tone works better than a commanding one. You can tell them, 'keep your toys in the cupboard, then I'll help you clean the room,' instead of 'keep your toys in the cupboard, else no TV.'

5. Empathize with them

You need to connect with them emotionally to judge their disobedience. Keep showering your love every now and then. Try to be a friendly parent. You can say, 'don't worry; you'll be able to finish your homework' or 'take your time to finish your breakfast.' By doing this, you empathize with them while getting the task done.

6. Give them a reason

Some children may get physical when annoyed. Tell them hitting may cause injury. Ask them how they would feel if someone hits them back, and they get hurt. Let them know that children with such behavior are not liked by all. If they have a habit of snatching their [siblings'](#) things, ask them how they would feel if the same thing happens with them.

7. Reward them

Rewarding a child for their excellent behavior encourages them to get better with time. You go shopping, and you tell your children to play without fighting. When you come back, you see them at their best behavior. Give them their favorite ice

cream or promise him a sleepover with a friend. You will find your children at their best every time.

8. Offer them a choice

If the child is adamant and refuses to listen, offer them variety. Give them a choice with limited results. For example, they need to eat vegetables but can do so either in lunch or dinner—it's their call. It is a smart strategy that works on children and does your job.

9. Provide clear and sensible instructions

Instructions should not come with 'ifs' and 'buts.' Telling a child, they can go for a swim only if they manage to finish their homework may not serve the purpose. They might either manipulate you or lie to you that their task is done. Instead, make them aware of the rules to be followed. Stick to your instructions. If they do not follow, make them repeat it till they get the hang of it. Constant reminders with consequences often break their stubbornness.

Restrict yourself from labeling your children, even if it is done with positive intent. Children are complex, unique individuals accompanied by a lot of challenges in their growing years. They are gifted with unique traits, and we have to deal with them positively. Mold your little ones carefully and find them blossoming as they grow up.